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Jamaica, Cuba issue hurricane warnings

MIAMI (AFP) - Hurricane warnings were issued yesterday for Jamaica and parts of Cuba as Tropical Storm Sandy gained strength in the southern Caribbean.

Forecasters predicted that Sandy will hit Jamaica as a hurricane today before crossing eastern Cuba tonight en route to the Bahamas by the weekend.

A tropical storm warning was issued for impoverished Haiti as well.

The storm was about 275 miles (440 kilometers) south-southwest of Kingston, packing top sustained winds of 50

miles per hour and moving north-northeast at five miles per hour, the Miami-based National Hurricane Center said.

"Sandy is expected to produce total rainfall amounts of 15-30 centimeters (six to 12 inches) across Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and eastern Cuba... especially in areas of mountainous terrain," the report said.

"These rains may produce life-threatening flash floods and mud slides," the center warned.

The Bahamas issued a tropical storm watch for central islands.

ATIA announces next exciting event: "What's next?"



ORANJESTAD -- The question has been raised and is being bounced around,... "what are the leaders of the three parties going to present as their vision for the next government period on Aruba?"

ATIA's gala fund raising event is scheduled for November 2nd. During this gala event the political leaders will present their views and vision for Aruba with the help of a moderator.

The three leaders with representation in Parliament, namely, leader of the AVP, Mike Eman, currently Prime

Minister of Aruba, Andin Bikker Parliamentarian and leader of the Democracia Real party, and Evelyn Wever-Croes, Parliamentarian and leader of the MEP party will be the speakers during the evening.

Continued on page 4

Business coach H.J.Bengochea to speak at Small Business Conference

ORANJESTAD -- Last year Aruba launched the first Small Business Week which resulted in being very successful with an attendance of over 500 participants for the different presentations. The primary purpose for the Small Business Week, according to the Minister of Economic Affairs, is to provide guidance to those planning to start a small business or for those already operating a business.

A second Small Business Week is planned for this year. The dates are November 12 to 16, with the Ministry of Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs offering an interesting program. Special speakers have been invited, among them, State Director of Small Business Development Center Network of Florida, Jerry Cartwright and Patricia Loui, Director of Export Import Bank.

Again this year there will be no entrance fee to this year's conference. One other very special speaker this year will be the renowned Business Coach H.J. Bengochea. Bengochea has worked for several large companies in the Caribbean such as FedEx, Neal & Massy Group, Accelor Mittal Steel, Angostura Ltd, and S.M. Jaleel & Co. Ltd. And Caribbean Money Market Brokers as consultant and as organizer or facilitator of different workshops. Trinidad & Tobago Business Development Company has worked extensively with Mr. Bengochea as facilitator and senior consultant.

Continued on page 5



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Hit play from Curacao, "Tisha" at Cas di Cultura tonight and tomorrow



Albert Schoobaar with cast and CEMBRAH



Ruenna "Sugar" Mercelina stars as Tisha

Aruba's White-Yellow Cross and CEMBRAH, the foundation which works with pregnant teenagers, is sponsoring two performances of the very successful play "Tisha," which ran at the Teatro KadaKen in

Curacao from March to the end of September, 2012.

Monique Geil of CEMBRAH introduced the writer, director and a star of the show, Albert Schoobaar, with his cast, to island media on Monday afternoon. The play tells the story of 15-year-old Tisha, a beautiful girl who is faced with the most complex choices of relationships, becoming sexually active, resulting pregnancy and the conflicts of traditions in which she was raised. The play examines how well we determine our own destiny, or submit to fateful events, convincing ourselves they are beyond our control. This was the most elaborate of productions KadaKen had staged up till March, and all secondary school children of

Curacao were brought to view the play, hoping it would impart some wisdom in their choices. Secondary school children of Aruba will be bussed in this morning and tomorrow to also benefit from the play's message.

Portraying the lead character, Tisha, is Ruenna Mercelina, a multiple title winner of numerous pageants. She was Miss Curacao Teenager and Miss Ecstasy International 2008, Miss University & College of the Dutch Caribbean 2009/2010 and again Miss Teenager Curacao Universe and Miss Teenager Congeniality Universe in 2011, to name a few.

Her love interest, Robby, is portrayed by Zjairon Minguei, and her mother is played by veteran actress Norma Cova. Tickets for the play are on sale at the door as well as Valero stations Palm Beach, Santa Cruz and Essoville and at Botica Santa Anna. Performances begin at 8:00 PM.

Both parents and teenagers are strongly recommended to attend this play, as Aruba also wrestles with a sharp increase in teenage pregnancies and the social problems these create. Aruba's Food Bank reports in the past year, families in need of assistance have quadrupled. Studying the cases reveals a great number are due to teenage pregnancies. Young women are leaving school to become uneducated mothers incapable of getting decent jobs to support their new family.

"Tisha" looks at the choices and hard consequences of not taking control of one's destiny, and its impact on the individual and community. It does so with humor and poignant drama. "Audience will both laugh and cry," commented Albert Schoobaar. "We feel certain they come away from the play having learned something important."

Rosalie Klein

Christmas Town Expo pledges proceeds to FPNC Food Bank



Andy Eckmeyer, Juliana Merencia and Indra Stamper

GTi Aruba, exclusive agents for Volkswagen, Audi and Porche was proud to host the manager of Christmas Town Expo Julie Merencia, and Director of the Aruba Food Bank, Indra Stamper for an announcement that visitors to the upcoming expo at the Renaissance Convention Center will be assisting a worthy cause along with spending an enjoyable day.

Aruba Food Bank is part of the Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad (FPNC, Foundation for our Community) which began operation by providing donating clothes, furniture and minor household goods to families in need. The foundations work is now mainly focused on providing food baskets to the hungry.

One method used for obtaining funds is by pledges for a donation to be regularly deducted from salaries and paid to the foundation's account. Indra Stamper revealed that funds this month were alarmingly short for the 350 baskets food baskets required.

Organizers of the Christmas Town Expo, which will take place over Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 2, 3 and 4, have pledged that every penny of the entrance fee, which is 5 Aruban florins per person, will be donated to the Aruba Food Bank. "We wish to insure that the necessary number of food baskets is distributed to the needy," commented Julie

Emerencia. "We are very pleased and proud to assist in this important endeavor, and hope the all of Aruba will join us in supporting this important cause." GTi Aruba will have a booth at the event, and wished to express their heartfelt support of the Christmas Town Expo community initiative by hosting the announcement.

Christmas Town Expo will be dedicated to every aspect of the holiday season, from gift giving to fashion, food, décor, and everything else that makes the end of the year fun and festive. It will open on Friday evening, Nov 2 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM and then will be open over the weekend from noon until 9:00 PM for three days of ideas and inspiration.

Julie Merencia invites interested parties to contact Christmas Town organizers at 743-7414 or e-mail maderomar@gmail.com for more information.

Rosalie Klein

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Aruba can now enjoy Fishing Center at Spaans Lagoen



Last week Friday was the official opening of the renovated Centro di Pesca Spaans Lagoen. Everyone there was impressed with the very beautiful and highly functional center that was created for fishermen and for the entire Aruban community.

Our fishermen were simply ecstatic about the place and expressed their gratitude to the government for the work they did in renovating the place so well. It is important to note that the work on the site was realized in direct consultation with the fishermen. They held meetings on different occasions,

they were heard and most of the observations were incorporated into the project, as well as many of the desires of the fishermen. This is how they came up with a facility that pleases everyone and will benefit the entire community. One of the conditions laid down was that they must have fresh fish every day for our people and at an affordable price.

Last Friday, John Lawrens, spokesman for the fishermen shared very pleasant news with the entire community. Lawrens declared that

they have made a commitment to the community to keep the price of fish at no more than Afl.15 per kilo. This is a commitment that every fisherman has made so that everyone can enjoy fresh fish at a very special price.

Lawrence then recounted a bit of the history of the Spaans Lagoen pier. He told how the first person who had a ranch there was the deceased Luis Carion. There he tied his canoe, and today it has become the center with more fishermen's boats and more fishermen practicing their trade. At the moment there are about 48 to 49 boats moored at the Spaans Lagoen pier. If each boat has 2 or 3 persons, that means there are more than 100 fishermen.



Let's all help keep our coastline clean

Last day for registration for upcoming AHATA Coastal Cleanup is October 26

ORANJESTAD – The Aruba Hotel and Tourist Association (AHATA) Environment Committee is organizing its 11th coastal cleanup. The goal is to clean Aruba's beaches and coastline of garbage and refuse and at the same time raise funds to cover their awareness campaign about cleanup and conservation of our environment.

The coastlines to be cleaned are: Nikky Beach up to Seaport Marina, Parke Arikok, California Dunes, Wariruri, Baby Beach/ Nanky Country Club, Bachelors Beach, Rodger's Beach, Boca Grandi, Grapefield, The Dog Cemetery, Zeewijk Beach, Mangel Halto, Santo Largo, between Bushiri Beach and Tamarijn Beach, Eagle Beach, Arashi, Malmok (Fisherman's Hut), Cudarebo, Camacuri and the Alto Vista area.

The cleanup is on Saturday, November 10, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. The Environment Committee already has a list of different schools, hotels and or-

ganizations registered for the event. Individuals, families, organizations, church groups, banks, scout groups and individuals are invited to participate.

The Environmental Committee also needs volunteers with pickups, trucks and trailers to help transport the garbage bags to large garbage containers stationed about the island.

The AHATA Environment Committee extends its gratitude to its main sponsor, Coca Cola and all its other sponsor who, in one way or another, contribute to the success of the cleanup.

For more information and registration, readers may call Vanessa Rasmussen at AHATA 582-2607 or via email: vanessa@ahata.com.

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AHATA Environmental Commission's message to Aruba:

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With a 5-Star Certificate of Excellence for 2012

ABC Tours earns Trip Advisor's highest honor

ORANJESTAD -- ABC Tours, a truly Aruban company which promises guests an extraordinary island experience with sterling service, was recently awarded Trip Advisors' highest rating of a 5-Star Certificate of Excellence.

"This achievement is the result of the efforts of our dynamic team which always give 100% and who work from the heart so to exceed guest expectations. We strive to have our customers feel at home and a part of our family," comments Marvin Kelly, ABC Tours' owner and managing director.

TripAdvisor.com is a social media website on which travelers provide commentary on their vacation experiences at hotels, restaurants as well as with activity companies like ABC Tours. ABC Tours consistently rates high among travelers for its unique island tour experience and its warm,



hospitable service. A high level of customer satisfaction over the last 12 months was reflected on the site with travelers providing four to five star ratings, which resulted in the company's recent 5-Star Certificate of Excellence achievement for 2012.

As a result of this recognition, ABC Tours is ranked alongside renowned international tour companies. "This high rating only encourages

us to try even harder in continuously improving our products and services. We intend to continue to offer our very best in providing our clients an exceptional, Aruba experience," states Marvin Kelly confidently.

ABC Tours is an Aruban family-owned business, founded in 1996. This innovative tour company was the first company on island to introduce tours of the island in

Land Rover Defenders, which were specially redesigned to provide comfort and easy viewing of this island during its different adventure tours of Aruba.

Over the last 16 years of operation, ABC Tours has expanded its fleet to 30 off-road vehicles and offers different, daily tours of the island. Its tours are designed to provide a sampling of Aruba's most interesting historical and natural sites, which provides enjoyment of the island not only for a day, but endears Aruba to its guests for the long term through trademark Aruban touches. Even the lunches served during the tour are carefully prepared to reflect traditional island fare. In July 2012, ABC Tours opened the Waka Waka Adventure Cafe, which supplies delicious meals to its customers and which will soon be open to the general public.

"What's next?"

Continued from page 1

Mike Eman is a graduate of the Universiteit van de Nederlandse Antillen (UNA) in law and notary law. He began his political career in 2001 although he was always a part of politics because his grandfather, father and brother were prominent politicians on the island of Aruba. In 2003 Mike Eman became leader of the AVP political party which role he still occupies.

Andin Bikker is Member of Parliament, his first term as such and he is also leader of the Democracia Real political party which he will continue to lead into the next election. Bikker is a graduate of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the field of law. He later pursued a post graduate in the "Capita Selecta Tax Law at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He later became co-founder and partner in the Gomez and Bikker Law firm.

Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes is the current political leader of the Movimiento Electoral di Pueblo (MEP) and serves as Parliamentarian since 2009. Evelyn Wever-Croes has studied Fiscal Law at Rijks Universiteit at Leiden, the Netherlands. She has a long history in the world of taxation, law and economics. She has spoken at various seminars, among them, Jaycees, "Woman Know Your Rights" and at the International Convention of Quota in 2003 in New Orleans, USA.

The ATIA program will also include special entertainment and a delicious dinner with music by Robert y Su Solo Banda Show.

ATIA invites everyone to call their office to reserve your ticket before these are sold out. The number to call is 582-7593 or you can reserve via aura@atiaruba.org.

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Small Business Week 2012 . . .

Bengochea comes with more than 25 years of experience in the field of marketing and is responsible for the introduction of various company brands in the Caribbean and Central and Latin America.

Bengochea has also been responsible for the introduction of several brands, such as Carib beer to the Grecian and Canadian markets. He has been marketing manager for Coca Cola for Caricom markets, and director of sales for Johnson & Johnson as well as CEO for Expert Centers of Trinidad & Tobago.

"Coach Bengo" as he is affectionately known also lectures part-time at his alma mater, the University of the West Indies.

Coach Bengo's presentation at the Small Business Week conference promises to be very interesting and informative for the small business entrepreneur who is just starting out in business.

The Ministry of Economic Affairs is counting on the support of Aruba Bank as a platinum sponsor, the Freezone as a gold sponsor, SETAR N.V. as a silver sponsor and on the valuable support of AIB Bank N.V. and Fatum for this year's Small Business Week 2012.

ATA and AHATA well represented in Chile

A very interesting road show has just recently taken place in the city of Santiago de Chile and the Aruba Tourism Authority and AHATA were both present having been invited by Viajes Falabella of Chile. Viajes Falabella is the largest operator in Chile.

This came about after Aruba played host to a group of operators from Chile and had organized a very successful event here together with the Aruba Hotel Association (AHATA). Members of the Chilean press were also part of the activities.

Destination

As a tourist destination, Aruba is becoming quiet renown in the Chilean market. In recent times we have seen the number of visitors from Chile to Aruba increasing considerably. Because of the economic and political stability of Chile, the ATA decided to open an office in Santiago de Chile.

The Aruba delegation participated in various events. The first such event was a visit to 6 operators where ATA and AHATA were able to present the Aruba product, which was followed by various workshops about Aruba.

Workshops

The workshop of Viajes



Falabella was: "A World to Discover" which was a workshop especially designed to represent the Caribbean and the rest of the world. During the two-day's events, more than 300 travel agents working directly with Viajes Falabella participated. The travel agents were duly educated about the destination and the opportunity inherent in the market.

Aruba was fortunate to have a prominent spot at the very entrance where the majority of the travel agents came by to visit the Aruba stand.

They were all very interested in visiting Aruba. They had numerous questions about Aruba. There are two flights from Santiago de Chile to Aruba, COPA Airlines and Avianca bring Chileans to our island.

The ATA also had the opportunity to make a presentation to a private concern, Staff and Sales Executives of Viajes Falabella. Many of our flyers were distributed, namely, the Bon Bini brochures, the Dine Around program, Calendar of Events, etc.

Marketing Director, Christian Meeks, came to personally greet the Aruba delegation and to thank them for their participation at the event. Members of the Chilean Press, the "Gaceta Magazine" also requested to publish an article about the Aruba product.

ATA also organized two events in Chile, which were held in the famous Ritz Carlton Resort. More than 150 travel agents attended this event including the General Manager of Avianca-Chile, Mr. Italo Geurenioni.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Storm drops snow on California

FRESNO -- The first major storm of the season on Monday brought snow to the Sierra Nevada in California and rain across the rest of the region.

Forecasters were calling for up to 2 feet of snow at the highest elevations in the northern Sierra Nevada, a good sign for a state dependent on winter snow accumulation for its water supply.

The storm also spawned a tornado near Sacramento. And it drenched fans and players at the end of the deciding seventh

game of the National League Championship Series, won by the San Francisco Giants.

The storm system originated in the Gulf of Alaska and has stalled over the Pacific northwest, bringing colder temperatures and gusty winds of up to 80 mph at the crests of the Sierra.

Highway officials say a series of storms brewing in the Pacific could wallop the northern half of the state through Friday.

Obama savages Romney foreign policy in last debate

BOCA RATON (AFP) - Barack Obama pummeled Mitt Romney as "all over the map" on foreign policy, dismissing his "wrong and reckless" positions in the heated final debate of a knife-edge White House race.

With just two weeks until polling day, Obama has unexpectedly found himself running neck-and-neck with a challenger who had long trailed him, and Monday's face-off on world affairs was perhaps a last chance to land a decisive blow.

"I know you haven't been in a position to actually execute foreign policy, but every time you've offered an opinion, you've been wrong," President Obama told his foe, coming out swinging in the debate in Boca Raton, Florida.

Republican challenger Romney played it safe, avoiding any catastrophic error that would have undermined his bid to be commander-in-chief, but was often on the defensive, apart from when lambasting Obama over the struggling economy.

Obama had the best lines of the night and sharply cross-examined Romney on his approach to Syria, Iran and trade rows with China, accusing him of "airbrushing history" by dumping earlier hawkish conservative positions.

The Republican, who has spent months attempting to paint Obama as a weak appeaser, actually backed much of the substance of the president's global strategy, courting wavering voters ahead of the November 6 election.

In a clear bid to moderate his image, Romney endorsed Obama's decision to withdraw from Afghanistan in 2014, supported the president's lethal drone war against terror suspects and congratulated him on hunting down Osama bin Laden.

Romney vowed to press

China harder on trade and currency issues but toned down earlier rhetoric, following warnings his approach could spark a trade war.

"We can be a partner with China. We don't have to be an adversary in any way, shape or form," he said, despite his vow to brand Beijing a currency manipulator on day one of his presidency.

Oddly, neither candidate mentioned the eurozone crisis - widely seen as the country's biggest external economic threat -- aside from Romney reprising his warning that the debt-laden US economy under Obama was "heading toward Greece."

An instant poll by CBS News found that Obama won the debate by 53 percent to 23 percent, after a clash that appeared to polish his leadership credentials and saw him showing the passion missing in his disastrous first debate.

CNN's poll found Obama beat Romney 48 to 40 percent.

But foreign policy is seen as unlikely to decide the election, with voters preoccupied by the sluggish economy, and it will take several days to gauge whether the clash had any impact in the tied up polls.

Dotty Lynch, professor of Public Communication at American University, said that by agreeing with Obama on foreign policy -- the incumbent's strong suit -- Romney had tried to maneuver the evening onto more favorable ground.

"By agreeing on the big points of foreign policy, Romney played it safe tonight and tried to move the conversation to the economy, where he thinks he's stronger," she said.

George Washington University professor Chris Aterton said Romney may have won over some independent voters simply by showing that he is not "the dangerous, wild conservative that Obama has been

trying to portray him as."

Obama looked bemused, puzzled and exasperated by Romney's tactics, staring intently at him as he spoke, apparently trying to keep frustration in check.

The president accused his opponent of being "all over the map" on a wide range of issues and dismissed Romney's claims that he had run down the armed forces to levels not seen since early in the 20th Century.

"You mentioned the navy, for example, and that we have fewer ships than we did in 1916. Well, governor, we also have fewer horses and bayonets because the nature of our military's changed," he said, to laughter from the audience.

"We have these things called aircraft carriers where planes land on them. We have these ships that go underwater, nuclear submarines."

Romney, a former Massachusetts governor, warned Islamic extremism was rampant in post-Arab Spring societies and blamed a lack of US leadership over the last four years, warning "we can't kill our way out of this mess."

Romney demanded tightened sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program, saying the country's leaders "saw weakness where they had been expected to find American strength" and accused Obama of neglecting close ally Israel.

The president, who withdrew troops from Iraq, pointed to Romney's past statements in support of maintaining an unpopular US military presence in the country, invaded in 2003 under former Republican president George W. Bush.

The rivals are effectively tied in national polls after Romney surged following his first debate win in early October and started chipping away at Obama's foundation in the swing states that will decide the election.



URUGUAY, Montevideo : A car drives by a wave breaking at Montevideo's waterfront on October 23, 2012. Hurricane gusts and flooding rains pounded areas of Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and southern Brazil last week as a severe storm blew up along the South American coast. At least seven storm deaths were reported. Winds were as high as 150 km/h (90-95 mph), according to multiple media reports. (AFP PHOTO)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Polish Jews museum to have world impact

NEW YORK (AFP) - Poland is on course to open a long-delayed museum dedicated to its near vanished Jewish minority next year, Culture Minister Bogdan Zdrojewski said yesterday, lauding the project's global impact.

"It will be an important institution not only in Europe, but in the world," Zdrojewski said at a presentation for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in New York.

"Five years ago, almost nobody believed there'd be a positive ending," he said, referring to the museum's difficult gestation. "We are close to completing the construction part. In March next year we are starting the installations."

The museum is being built in Warsaw on the site of the World War II Jewish Ghetto that became a symbol of resistance to Nazi Germany's efforts to eradicate 1,000 years of Jewish presence in the country.

However, the presentation, which kicked off a year-long publicity program, was held at New York's World Trade Center. The United States, where about 70 percent of Jews claim

Polish roots, has been key for securing funding.

Larry Silverstein, the World Trade Center leaseholder playing a key role in reconstruction of the complex destroyed on September 11, 2001, told the presentation that next year's 70th anniversary of the failed Warsaw Uprising against the Germany military would recall "a horror that few people understood at that time."

"This is an extraordinary occasion to be celebrating the reality of this museum," he said.

Poland was once home to the largest Jewish population in the world, with about 3.5 million Jews living there on the eve of the Holocaust, or 10 percent of the country.

By the end of World War II, three million Polish Jews had perished and nearly as many Poles, many of them in Nazi death camps at Auschwitz, Birkenau, Maidanek and Treblinka.

Organizers stressed that the museum is intended to recall the richness of Jewish life in Poland over the last millenium, rather than just the tragedy of World War II.

NATO: Somali pirates free ship after nearly two years

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Somali pirates have released a cargo ship they hijacked almost two years ago, with the crew "very relieved" to see their NATO rescuers, the military alliance said yesterday.

The Panama-flagged MV Orna was released on Saturday and the HNLMS Rotterdam, the flagship of the NATO anti-piracy operation in the area, provided medical assistance,

food and water to the freed crew, a statement said.

Pirates armed with rocket-propelled grenades hijacked the Orna, a cargo vessel from the United Emirates, in the Indian Ocean northeast of the Seychelles in December 2010.

NATO quoted the doctor on board the Rotterdam, identified only as Lieutenant Commander Rijkers, as saying "the crew was very relieved to see us."



COLOMBIA, Cali : US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns (L) shakes hands with Colombian Deputy Foreign Minister Patti Londono, on October 23, 2012, in Cali, Valle del Cauca department, Colombia, after signing a memorandum of understanding between the two governments, for the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises, during the V Ministerial Meeting "Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas." (AFP PHOTO)



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Iran says to halt oil exports if hit with more sanctions

DUBAI (AFP) - Iran will stop exporting oil if Western powers slap any more economic sanctions against the Islamic republic over its disputed nuclear program, Oil Minister Rostam Qasemi said yesterday.

"If you continue to add to the sanctions, we will stop our oil exports to the world," Qasemi said on the sidelines of an energy conference in Dubai, warning the "lack of Iranian oil in the market would drastically add to the price."

Western states have im-

posed since the beginning of the year an oil embargo on Iran, ending European purchases of Iranian crude oil while exports to Tehran's Asian customers fell significantly, between 10 to 30 percent.

Earlier yesterday, Qasemi had been cited as saying Iran produces four million barrels of oil per day, rejecting estimates by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) of a decline to 2.7 million bpd.

Qasemi also denied Iran's

exports fell in September to nearly 860,000 bpd as estimated by the International Energy Agency (IEA), saying it stood at 2.2 million bpd.

"Despite attempts by Western countries to stop the sale of Iranian oil, we produce at full capacity... and exports have been stable in recent months," he said.

In early September, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad acknowledged Iran had "some problems" to sell its oil because of the sanctions.

Scotland seeks legal advice on EU membership

LONDON (AFP) - Scotland has formally commissioned legal advice on its position in the European Union if it votes for independence from Britain in its 2014 referendum, the government said yesterday.

Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon admitted that while Edinburgh had previously cited "eminent legal authorities" on the issue, it had not until now sought a specific ruling from law officers.

She added that her Scottish National Party (SNP) was dropping a court battle to avoid saying whether it had sought legal advice on how independence would affect Scotland's membership of the EU.

Health & Living

Children at Iraq prison 'future time bomb': NGO

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Some 21 children living with their mothers in a Baghdad women's prison represent a potential "time bomb," an Iraqi rights group warned in a report that also noted claims of rape and torture.

The Hammurabi Humanitarian Organisation, headed by former migration minister Pascal Wardeh, also detailed conditions at the women's prison in Kadhimiyah, north Baghdad, in which some prisoners suffered physical assault.

It said 21 children were living with their mothers in the detention facility, "suffering a

punishment without committing any crime."

The rights group warned that this made the children "a time bomb for the future."

It said that it made a visit to the prison on September 20, along with officials from Iraq's human rights ministry. The report was handed to President Jalal Talabani and the ministry itself.

A total of 414 detainees were being held in the jail, varying in age from 20 to 65. Among the inmates were 18 women sentenced to death.

The NGO said that prisoners complained of "different

forms of torture, such as the use of electricity, punching, and rape during the investigation."

It quoted an unidentified judge as saying that there were "violations throughout the investigation process," recommending that female security officers escort women prisoners to reduce the chance of abuse.

International human rights groups have on several occasions complained of persistent torture at Iraqi prisons being used to extract confessions from detainees, and also of the continued use of secret jails.

Russia criticises US over human rights

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia has prepared a report on respect for human rights in the United States -- often critical of Moscow's record -- and found that the situation was not a "happy" one, the Russian foreign ministry said Monday.

A hearing on the problems of US human rights took place Monday in the Duma, lower house of parliament, with

representatives of the Russian diplomatic corps, the ministry's statement said.

The diplomats stressed that "Washington's pretensions of being a leader in the defence of human rights and democratic values were not justified, especially taking into account the fact that the situation in this domain in the United States is far from being

a happy one."

The ministry pointed to social inequality, racial, ethnic and religious discrimination, and the use of torture as some of the problems the diplomats listed.

Moscow is regularly criticised by Washington, as well as by the European Union, on the question of human rights in Russia.

Mexico digs up relative to identify drug lord

PACHUCA (AFP) - Mexican authorities exhumed a relative of drug kingpin Heriberto Lazcano on Monday and took DNA samples from the corpse to remove any doubt they had killed the Zetas leader.

Lazcano, one of Mexico's most wanted men, is believed to have been killed at a baseball field in the northern state of Coahuila on October 7, but gunmen stole the cartel leader's body from a funeral home hours later.

Mexican officials had identified Lazcano with pictures and fingerprints taken at the funeral home, but authorities announced last week that they had decided to exhume one of his parents' bodies to put to rest any doubts.

A source in the federal prosecutor's office declined to say which relative had been exhumed.

Founded by military deserters, the Zetas are one of the most powerful gangs in a drug war that has claimed an estimated 60,000 lives in the past six years.

The state of Guerrero is one of the areas hardest hit by the violence and on Monday, officials in the popular resort of

Acapulco announced the discovery of 24 bodies in an unmarked grave there. Work on the site began in September.

Lazcano was accused of masterminding the arson attack on a casino last year in the northeastern city of Monterrey that left 52 people dead.

He was also blamed for the killing for 72 migrants found with their hands tied in the northeastern state of Tamaulipas, which borders the United States, in August 2010.

One of two main leaders of the Zetas cartel, Lazcano had a \$2.6 million reward on his head. The United States had set its own award at \$5 million.

The Zetas are engaged in a brutal turf war with the Pacific region's Sinaloa Cartel, led by fugitive billionaire Joaquin "El Chapo" (Shorty) Guzman, Mexico's public enemy number one and a billionaire criminal who escaped from a maximum security prison in 2001.

The new top Zeta, Miguel Angel Trevino, will have to consolidate his leadership position while at the same time facing a furious offensive from their western rivals.

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-- Monster Energy Drink has been cited for the deaths of five people and one nonfatal heart attack, according to incident reports submitted to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. According to recent reports by the Food and Drug Administration, five deaths over the past five years may be linked to Monster Energy, a popular drink that is high in caffeine. According to the reports being analyzed, people have had adverse reactions after consuming the popular drink, which contains 240 milligrams of caffeine - seven times the amount of caffeine found in a 12-ounce cola. The drink is packaged in a 24-ounce can.

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Sci-Tech

Auditor warns Canada lagging on cyber security

OTTAWA (AFP) - Canada "has been slow" to set up firewalls to protect against cyber threats to critical infrastructure, leaving the nation vulnerable to crippling attacks, the auditor general warned Tuesday.

In a report, Auditor General Michael Ferguson said the government has made only "limited progress" over the past decade to safeguard elec-

trical grids, telecommunications infrastructure, banking systems, manufacturing and transportation, as well as its own computers.

A key agency set up seven years ago to monitor cyber threats 24/7, called the Canadian Cyber Incident Response Centre, is still not



fully functioning, leaving evening and weekend gaps in its security coverage, he said.

Also, incidents were not reported in a timely manner nor shared with the appropriate agencies, he said.

Opposition parties pounced on the report to accuse the government of being "recklessly ill-prepared" to protect Canadians who are increasingly reliant on the Internet, against cyber attacks.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews conceded some shortcomings revealed by the audit, but insisted the Tory government is committed to ensuring "Canada's critical infrastructure is well-insulated from cyber threats."

"It wasn't until 2010 that people became (fully) aware of the nature of cyber threats," he said. Ottawa announced stepped up security efforts that year but in January 2011, a cyber attack was still able to paralyze its computers, leading to a revamp of the network now being undertaken.

The report notes the frequency and severity of electronic attacks through the Internet are accelerating, which Toews confirmed at a press conference.

Attacks by ordinary hackers, organized criminal groups and state-sponsored entities are "constant," Toews said.

Netherlands mulling heated bike paths



THE HAGUE (AFP) - Researchers in bicycle-mad Netherlands have come up with a novel way to get more cyclists out during the harsh winter months while also lowering the number of injuries: heated bike paths.

"The idea is to install a system under bike paths to prevent ice forming in winter," engineer Marcel Boerefijn from the Tauw engineering consultancy told AFP.

Several Dutch municipalities have already expressed interest in the system that uses geothermal energy drawn from 30-50 metres (100-160 feet) below ground.

While the idea would cost 20,000-40,000 euros (25,000-50,000 dollars) per kilometre of bike path, of which the

Netherlands has over 35,000 kilometres, Boerefijn prefers to vaunt the pragmatic side of the plan.

"There would be lots of savings: less salt to melt the ice, less medical costs because of accidents and fewer car expenses because people would rather travel by bike," he said, citing a figure of 7,000 bike path accidents a year.

The eastern Dutch town of Zutphen, population 40,000, is awaiting the results of a preliminary assessment expected early next year before embarking on a feasibility study at a municipal level.

The Netherlands has an estimated 18 million bicycles for a population of around 16.5 million.



SAN JOSE, CA (AFP) : Apple CEO Tim Cook speaks during an Apple special event at the historic California Theater yesterday in San Jose, California. Apple is expected to introduce a smaller, less expensive version of the iPad. Apple set the tablet computer market ablaze with the first iPad in early 2010 and stuck with its 9.7-inch (24.6-centimeter) screen while rivals introduced lower-price tablets with screens closer to seven-inches (18 centimeters). Amazon's seven-inch Kindle Fire proved popular last year, and a new version was launched last month. Cook took over as Apple chief last year in the months before a battle with cancer claimed the life of Steve Jobs, the Cupertino, California-based company's legendary co-founder and leader.





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COMICS

PICKLES

IT MAKES MY HEART SORE TO SEE YOU TWO FIGHTING LIKE THIS.

DO YOU MEAN S-O-A-R, LIKE ON THE WINGS OF A BIRD?

DON'T BE STUPID, EARL!

NO, I MEAN S-O-R-E, LIKE A THROBBING PAIN!

YOU'RE CALLING ME STUPID? NOW I'M SORE.

IT MAKES MY HEART SOAR TO SEE THEM BICKER LIKE THIS.

MOMMA

MOMMA, NORMY'S DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING WONDERFUL FOR HIS MOTHER!

OH, I THINK THAT'S LOVELY!!

WE FIGURED YOU WOULD! HE'S TAKING HIS MOTHER TO DINNER...

-SO, CAN YOU LEND ME FIFTY BUCKS?

CALVIN and HOBBS

I WISH IT WAS WINTER.

WELL, IT WON'T BE FOR A WHILE YET.

THEN I WISH IT WAS SPRING OR SUMMER.

YOU DON'T LIKE AUTUMN?

OH, AUTUMN IS FINE.

IT'S THE PRESENT I DON'T LIKE.

CROSSWORD

THE MORNING NEWS

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HEAVY ELEMENTS

ACROSS

1. Strong taste

5. Mousse, for fizzy hair

10. Sounds of sorrow

14. Taft's home

15. Unattended

16. Former money of Milan

17. Indian chief at Little Bighorn

18. "Run Runaway" band

19. Zoology suffix

20. Still asleep

21. Superman's sobriquet

23. Kong's costar

25. Sneaker brand

26. Burgundy hue

29. Panache

32. Muslim VIPs

33. "___ to Order" (Ally Sheedy film)

34. Kiwi's kin

37. Harassing with trivialities

41. Party card game

42. Jason's craft

43. West Indies volcano

44. Potboiler producers

46. Fall flowers

47. Medicine bottle

49. Perplexed

50. Elderly gorilla

54. Aid for the absent-minded

58. Lamb's pseudonym

59. Hidden hoard

60. Spy who operates from within

61. Family

DOWN

1. Roman garment

2. Ishmael tells of this captain

3. The Aswan dams it

4. Many of Tut's treasures, e.g.

5. Australian sea

6. Put to rest

7. Sound of woe

8. Within: prefix

9. Sand bar

10. Certain roofer

11. Greased

12. Semisoft

French cheeses

13. Harbor barker

22. Emulate Hermann Maier

24. Marie or McGowan

26. What one doesn't get at a buffet

27. "I ___ a perpetual dither..."

28. Little Caesar

29. Pointed teeth

30. Ship's deck

31. Reckon

33. Target

34. Jogger's measure

35. Singular person

36. Seven ___ of man

38. Finishing ingredient

39. ___ dixit

40. Welder, e.g.

44. Morro Castle's locale

45. Bitter brew

46. Interrogators

47. Tycoon's vacation home

48. Odyssey's prequel

49. Flu symptoms

50. Religious faction

51. The Mounties: abbr.

52. Max whq played Jethro

53. French play part

55. Kansas city

56. Hit

57. Point cards in pinochle

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Sudoku

2			3					1
		4				2	5	
					6	2		7
	8		1				6	2
			7		6			
5	1				8		9	
4			6	3				
	6	9				1		
8					4			6

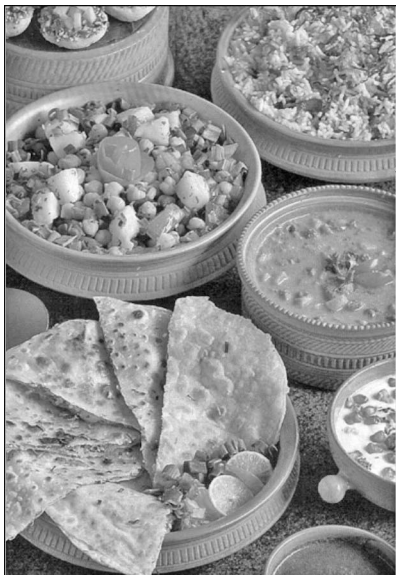
SOLUTION

9	L	S	P	I	6	E	Z	8
P	E	I	S	8	Z	6	9	L
8	Z	6	L	E	9	1	S	P
E	6	L	8	Z	P	9	I	S
S	I	8	9	6	L	Z	P	E
Z	9	P	E	S	I	L	8	6
L	P	E	Z	9	S	8	6	I
6	S	Z	I	L	8	P	E	9
1	8	9	6	P	E	S	L	Z

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Russia taps mega Arctic gas field

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia's energy giant Gazprom yesterday launched production at one of the world's largest natural gas fields originally discovered some 40 years ago in the frozen and hitherto inaccessible Arctic.

In a live-link up from Moscow, President Vladimir Putin formally pushed the button on the start of commercial production at the Arctic deposit whose discovery by the Soviets in the early 1970s created excitement and frustration in equal measure.

The Bovanenkovo field on the Yamal peninsula in extreme northwestern Siberia has what Gazprom estimates to be 4.9 trillion cubic meters (177 trillion cubic feet) of natural gas -- making it one of the world's three largest deposits.

But it also lies amid permafrost and had long remained cut-off from access to pipelines or even basic communication.

"The field will produce 115 billion cubic meters (4,060 billion cubic feet) of gas and that will go up to nearly 140 billion," Putin told the field's workers by live video.

"This is nearly the equivalent of how much we export to Europe," Putin stressed.

The giant field -- second in size in Russia only to Gazprom's Urengoi deposit to the south -- is part of an Arctic project that Gazprom has been pinning its hopes on as older wells run dry.

But Gazprom exports to Europe slipped last year and remained flat in recent years amid easing global demand.

"We are now facing the question of where all this gas is supposed to go," said Sberbank CIB energy analyst Valery Nesterov.

"The decision to launch this field was made before the 2008 global financial crisis. A lot of things have changed since then -- including the onslaught of shale gas" from Canada and the United States.

Gazprom chief executive Alexei Miller said the company intended to launch nearly 150 wells this year that feed into pipelines to Europe and replace supplies lost from the currently suspended Shtokman field project in the Barents Sea.



BELGIUM, Genk : Picture taken on October 23, 2012 in Genk shows Ford's Belgian assembly plant. Unions at Ford's Belgian assembly plant said Monday they have been called in for an extraordinary meeting with the company today, stoking fears the future of its 4,300 employees could be at risk. (AFP)

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

CAPET SLAB MAME
ALIVE CARR ERIN
RESET ETNA LILT
PEARLONION BENE
EVEN DEALER
BYEBYE EXIT
LEER READ NOBEL
ELROY USO EARLY
BLOWS RAMA SILO
NEBO BATMAN
TIMBRE SOIR
ALIE GINGERSNAP
SONT GAOL ITALY
SNIT AGUE VADER
EASY ROTS ERASE

ECB official hints at rate cut

FRANKFURT (AFP) - A top official from the European Central Bank has said that the bank might consider cutting its interest rate from its already historically low, as the eurozone crisis continues to bite. Executive Board member Benoit Coeure said the bank "recently has not considered it a priority to cut the policy rate" but added: "It remains certainly an option."

He said the priority had been to take emergency action to shore up the eurozone via its disputed bond-buying program to reduce the borrowing costs of stricken countries such as Spain and Italy. The program -- known as Outright Monetary Transactions -- is ready to swing into action, Coeure said.

"We are only waiting now for countries to agree with the eurogroup and also with the IMF for conditionality to be in place and then OMT can start," he said, referring to eurozone finance ministers.


The ECB's interest rate currently stands at 0.75 percent, the lowest level in the bank's more than 10-year history.

Eleven EU nations get go-ahead on 'Robin Hood' finance

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Commission yesterday backed plans by 11 EU nations to launch a hotly contested "Robin Hood" financial transactions tax (FTT) that is tipped to raise billions for the public purse.

After moves to launch the tax across the European Union were scuttled during months of raucous debate by Britain and others, the EU executive proposed that countries in favour, including France, Germany, Italy and Spain, go ahead on their own.

Proponents of a transactions tax, which has its roots in the 1970s, believe it will help curb the culture of greed that led to the 2008 global financial crisis and ensure that a bailed out industry pays its fair share.



Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of:
10/23/2012

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.81
Britain	GBP	2.78	2.83	2.89
Switzerland	CHF	191.30	192.02	192.82
Netherlands	EUR	229.53	231.63	233.95
Sweden	SEK	25.89	26.61	27.41
Denmark	DKK	30.09	30.81	31.61
Norway	NOK	30.27	30.99	31.79
Japan	JPY	221.04	223.06	225.30

(per 10,000)

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Former Goldman director faces sentencing

NEW YORK (AFP) - Rajat Gupta, the ex-Goldman Sachs director found guilty of insider trading, is to be sentenced today and wants the judge to have him do charity work in Rwanda rather than time in a US prison.

Gupta, 63, faces between eight and 10 years behind bars if prosecutors get their way. He was convicted in June of spilling boardroom secrets to his friend Raj Rajaratnam, the former Galleon hedge fund tycoon who was sentenced last year to 11 years prison, also for insider trading.

In addition to his place on the Goldman Sachs board, Gupta once headed the renowned consultancy McKinsey & Co, and was a director of Procter & Gamble, making him one of the most successful Indian-born businessmen in the United States.

But defense lawyer Gary Naftalis is asking Judge Jed Rakoff for leniency -- and suggesting an unusual alternative to prison.

Citing Gupta's longtime involvement in charity, particu-

larly in fighting AIDS, malaria and other diseases afflicting developing countries, Naftalis suggested the ruined Wall Street figure be sent to work with the poor in Rwanda.

He would work alongside the US aid organization CARE USA in rural districts, performing community service "that could potentially provide great benefits to large numbers of Rwandans desperately in need of help, and which Mr. Gupta is uniquely situated to perform. Moreover, it would require Mr. Gupta to confront significant hardships."

Another suggestion by the defense is for Gupta to work in New York with Covenant House, which helps the homeless.

However, prosecutors said in their own pre-sentencing letter to Rakoff that "a significant term of imprisonment is necessary to reflect the seriousness of Gupta's crimes and to deter other corporate insiders in similar positions from stealing corporate secrets and engaging in a crime that has become far too common."



LONDON : AFP photo shows London Taxis driving along a street in Central London. The company that makes London's iconic black taxis collapsed into administration but was hopeful of receiving a financial rescue amid reports of a possible Chinese lifeline. "Manganese Bronze Holdings PLC, the manufacturer of the world famous London taxi, yesterday announced that discussions with various parties to secure funding on acceptable terms to address the group's financial needs have proved unsuccessful.

Critics purr as Bond returns in 'Skyfall'



LONDON (AFP) - The new Bond film "Skyfall" has its world premiere on Tuesday with critics declaring it one of the finest movies in the British spy's 50 years on the silver screen.

Daniel Craig, in his third outing as 007, will walk up the red carpet at the Royal Albert Hall in London along with the film's other stars for the screening in the presence of heir to the throne Prince Charles.

In "Skyfall", directed by Oscar winner Sam Mendes, Britain's foreign intelligence agency MI6 comes under attack, leaving Bond to hunt down the threat.

There is far more prominent role than normal for Judi Dench as Bond's controller "M" while Spanish star Javier Bardem brings malice to the

role of Bond's latest nemesis Raoul Silva.

The 23rd Bond film opens with a spectacular scene in an Istanbul market but returns to home ground with a terror attack in London.

Craig said in one interview ahead of the film's release that the directors were conscious of the need to show sensitivity, as London was the scene of Al-Qaeda bombings in 2005 in which 52 people were killed.

In his two previous outings in "Casino Royale" and "Quantum of Solace", 44-year-old Craig has played Bond as a brooding presence, which critics say is far closer to the Bond portrayed in the novels by his creator Ian Fleming.

A former Bond, Roger Moore, is among those who

believe Craig is the best 007 in history.

The release of "Skyfall" has special resonance because it was exactly half a century since Bond strode stylishly into a film for the first time in the now classic "Dr. No".

The anniversary was marked with a series of events across the world earlier this month.

The Bond franchise has gone on to become one of the most successful in history, with the 22 Bond films released so far taking more than five billion dollars (3.85 billion euros).

Louvre seeks \$1mn to buy precious 13th-century statuettes

PARIS (AFP) - The Louvre museum in Paris will launch an appeal for a million dollars to help it pay for two medieval ivory statuettes that resurfaced recently, its director said Monday.

The museum has until January 31 to find 800,000 euros (\$1.0 million) to buy the statuettes, director Henri Loyrette told AFP.

The total price asked by the private owner is 2.6 million euros, of which the Friends of the Louvre Society has raised half, while the art insurer Axa Art is chipping in 500,000 euros.

The statuettes of Saint John and the "Allegory of the Synagogue" would complete a collection titled "Descent from the Cross", Loyrette said, adding: "The ensemble is a great masterpiece of French Gothic art."

The Louvre has a first option to acquire the statuettes, which are classified as national treasures.

They are some 20 centimetres (eight inches) tall.

Loyrette said the museum had all but given up on finding the two statuettes it needed to complete the "Descent from the Cross" collection.

"We were losing hope of finding them. Then one day, a private collector took them out of a bag in my office. He'd come to offer them for sale. It was a revelation," he said.

The statuettes had been in the private collection of an engineer, whose grandson is offering them for sale.

'Paranormal Activity 4' tops N America box office

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Horror flick "Paranormal Activity 4" opened atop the North American box office this weekend, while political thriller "Argo" held onto second place, industry figures showed Monday.

The fourth installment in the found-footage franchise raked in \$29 million to lead the top 10, while several other pre-Halloween spooky movies also did well, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

Ben Affleck's "Argo," which earned \$16.4 million, tells the true story of how a CIA agent managed to rescue six Americans who had escaped the embassy in Tehran in 1979 and taken shelter at the Canadian ambassador's residence.

Last week's top earner "Taken 2" -- Liam Neeson's return as ex-CIA agent Bryan Mills -- was pushed down to the number three spot, earning \$13.3 million in its third weekend.

In fourth place was animated comedy "Hotel Transylvania," in which monsters become Dracula's guests, with \$13 million in ticket sales.

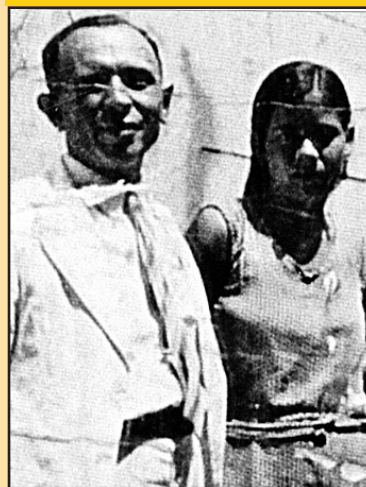
"Alex Cross," starring Tyler Perry as the popular James Patterson detective character, debuted in fifth place with \$11.4 million, while another horror flick, "Sinister," dropped to sixth place, taking in \$8.8 million.

"Here Comes the Boom," a comedy starring Kevin James as a high school teacher who looks to become a mixed martial arts fighter to raise money for his school, was right behind with \$8.4 million.

In eighth place was "Pitch Perfect," a musical-comedy about a cappella singing groups, which earned \$6.8 million.

Rounding out the top ten were "Frankenweenie," Tim Burton's latest effort, with \$4.3 million, and "Looper," a time travel mob movie starring Bruce Willis and Joseph Gordon-Levitt, which earned \$4.2 million.

La Linda Department Store-where Aruba shops!



Calman and Anna Hochman

Though Aruba has its share of designer brand stores and shopping malls, ask almost any islander where they shop, and they will likely tell you "La Linda." Spread out over several specialty stores on the Caya Betico Croes, La Linda was Aruba's first and foremost department stores, where, for decades, one could find anything and everything, and after more than 70 years, still can make that claim.

It is also a distinctly fa-

huge fabrics and notions department, the first destination for many on an island where making your own clothes is still an everyday practice. Without question, the store offers the greatest diversity of selection in nearly every department, and they have now consolidated them all into one store; four floors containing a wealth of choices in clothing for men, women and children, house wares, bedding, sporting goods, luggage, shoes, jewelry, deco-rative items and more.

"The present store is a work in progress," asserts Jaime, as they continue to renovate and enlarge what had been only the men's store and warehouse in the past. Normally closed for a 2 hour lunch/siesta in the old island way, shoppers will soon find it open daily for the entire day, from 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, as they are on Saturday's, with a bright, charming eatery installed on the top floor.



Unique, quality goods in all departments

family operation, with the personal touch and supervision of the Hochmans, who take their reputation for stocking "the best quality for the best price" very seriously. It all started with Calman Hochman, a Jewish Polish immigrant who opened his first small shop with his Aruban wife Anna, carrying "a little bit of everything that anyone could need." This was before WWII, when the present head of the company, Jaime, hadn't even been born yet. Many of their sales help have also been with the store for over two decades, and "it is very much like family here," he admits. Their loyal patrons also look forward to being helped by shop girls who have become friends, knowing they will get great and honest service.

To this day, La Linda is particularly known for its

La Linda is continually expanding their inventory, with their acquisitions department continually seeking out interesting, unique, and moderately priced goods from all over the world, always with an eye towards quality. They pay particular attention to their Women's Department specializing in over-sized garments, stocking larger sizes exhibiting distinctive dash and style.

For travelers who have perhaps lost their luggage, they can offer a quick fix for all the family which won't break your budget, including some very stylish new suitcases.

A visit to La Linda and perusal of their interesting collection will make anyone understand why it has remained successful all these decades, and is still Aruba's favorite place to shop!

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Ma-lone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters,

caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee.



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All

Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Steak on a Stone-Le Petit Café's specialty



In a time when dining choices and critiques are based on value for your dollar, an old favorite, Le Petit Café, still offers one of the best values not only in price, but quality, quantity and ambiance.

Le Petit Café in Palm Beach offers charming surroundings reminiscent of a European outdoor café. Surrounded by Old World gaslights and an abundance of flora, it provides a delightful and romantic setting. In Oranjestad, diners can enjoy a breathtaking view of the harbor; particularly as the sun dips over the horizon and the lights of town set the waters aglow. Taking advantage of their Early Bird Special not only offers a great price for a delicious meal, but put you in the right place at the right time to enjoy Aruba's most spectacular daily performance; our stunning sunsets.

The Early Bird special offers a choice of a full sized chicken breast, a hefty portion of filet mignon or fresh grouper fillet accompanied by a well-stuffed baked potato, rice or french fries. There is a choice of soup or salad as a starter, and ice cream for dessert, all for a modest \$24.95; an unbeatable price for a great meal on Aruba!

Cooking your main course on the stone is a supremely healthy method of preparation, seasoned to perfection

and using no fats or oils. Fish in particular is excellent; extremely moist and tasty. A thick cut of filet mignon usually requires cutting into smaller sections to cook fully, especially if your preference is medium-well to well done.

Le Petit Café is particularly well known for its "Land and Sea" specialty, filet mignon and lobster tail; a gourmet treat when served in their signature fashion. The restaurant also offers a diverse menu of pastas and tempting gourmet appetizers such as seafood crepes, crispy calamari, and escargot. For family members in the mood for something different there are several dishes to choose from, such as chicken parmesan, so a large family with different ideas of what they want for dinner can easily be accommodated.

We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and Le Petit Café has also long been famous for the best value for breakfast on Aruba. They still offer a full breakfast for \$9.99, another unbeatable value!

Le Petit Café is also located in the Paradise Beach Villas, so whether you are staying in Oranjestad, Palm Beach or Eagle Beach, a La Petit Café restaurant can be found only a short stroll away from you resort, a perfect way to begin or end your day!

SPORTS

UEFA Champions League:



Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi vies with Celtic's English defender Kelvin Wilson

BARCELONA (AFP) - A Jordi Alba goal at the death gave Barcelona a 2-1 win to sink a battling Celtic side and make it three wins out of three in Group G for the Catalan giants.

The visiting Scottish fans were all set to cheer a well earned point at Barca's Nou Camp fortress but instead they were left crestfallen after conceding a goal in the 93rd minute with Alba bundling the ball over from close range.

Barca, who lead the group with nine points, have not been beaten at home for three years in Europe but they went behind when a header from Giorgos Samaras deflected off Mascherano after 16 minutes.

The hosts, whose imperious start to the campaign has seen them unbeaten so far at home and abroad, were always in

down as Javier Hernandez's double inspired a 3-2 win over Braga.

Sir Alex Ferguson's side were in danger of an embarrassing defeat at the hands of the Portuguese minnows after two early goals from Braga captain Alan shocked Old Trafford.

But Hernandez sparked United's revival with his first goal before half-time and the Mexico striker bagged the winner with 15 minutes remaining after Jonny Evans equalised just after the hour.

Hernandez's heroics ensured United maintained their 100 percent record after three



David Luiz (L) of Chelsea FC fights for a ball with Shakhtar's player Adriano Luiz (R)

control but they uncharacteristically lacked a cutting edge in attack.

While in Manchester United staged a dramatic fightback from two goals

Group H matches and one more victory should be enough to guarantee their place in the last 16.

Yet, while Ferguson will be pleased by his team's gutsy comeback, the United manager was shifting uneasily in his seat as Braga became the latest team to expose the hosts' defensive frailties.

In Ukraine, Chelsea's hopes of a place in the Champions League last 16 were compromised on Tuesday when the holders fell to the first loss of their trophy defence in a 2-1 defeat at Shakhtar Donetsk.

Despite a late effort by Oscar, goals from Alex Teixeira and Fernandinho were enough to give the Ukrainian champions breathing space at the top of Group E and extend an extraordinary unbeaten run stretching back 11 months.

It was Chelsea's first loss since they went down to Atletico Madrid in the UEFA Super Cup, but things would have been far worse for the Premier League leaders had Juventus not been held to a 1-1 draw at FC Nordsjaelland.

Chelsea remain in second place but are now three points behind Shakhtar ahead of the return game on November 7, while coach Roberto Di Matteo must hope for a quick recovery prior to Sunday's visit of Manchester United.

Marlins sack manager Guillen



MIAMI (AFP) - Ozzie Guillen was fired as manager of the Miami Marlins on Tuesday after only one season at the Major League Baseball club. The 48-year-old Venezuelan was dumped after the Marlins went 69-93 this past season, finishing last in the National League East division - no replacement for Guillen was named. "After careful consideration following the disappointment of the 2012 season, we decided to dismiss Ozzie," Marlins president of baseball operations Larry Beinfest said. "Our managerial search begins immediately and our hope is that a new manager, along with roster improvements, will restore a winning culture." Guillen served as manager of the Chicago White Sox from 2004 through 2011, when he was released near the end of the season and two days later signed on with the Marlins, who sent two players to the White Sox in compensation for hiring Guillen while he was still under contract to Chicago for 2012.



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UEFA Champions League



VILLENEUVE-D'ASCQ (AFP) : Lille's Ivoirian forward Salomon Kalou (R) controls the ball in front of Bayern Munich's defender Jerome Boateng during the UEFA Champions League football match Lille vs Bayern Munich yesterday at the Grand stade in Villeneuve-d'Ascq, northern France. Bayern Munich won 1-0. disputed penalty from Thomas Mueller after 20 minutes was the difference between the sides but Bayern made most of the running and should have won by a decidedly more comfortable margin.



BELARUS (AFP) : Valencia's Roberto Soldado (R) vies with BATE Borisov's Egor Filipenko (L) during their Champions League Group F football match in Minsk, yesterday Valencia won 3-0. Valencia's second win of the campaign pushed them up to the top of Group F from BATE and Bayern with all three on six points.

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Cycling: Armstrong facing big financial hit over doping ban

PARIS (AFP) - World cycling's decision to strip Lance Armstrong of his record seven Tour de France wins could cost the shamed US rider millions, as calls mounted on Tuesday for tougher action to restore the sport's shattered image.

The International Cycling Union (UCI) on Monday gave its backing to a damning US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) dossier that placed the Texan at the heart of the biggest doping programme in sport, erasing his record back to August 1, 1998.

But as the 41-year-old's major triumphs were scrubbed from the history books and of-

ficials vowed to up the fight against banned substances, moves began to recoup his prize money, bonuses and other pay-outs.

Tour de France director Christian Prudhomme is seeking repayment of nearly 2.95 million euros (\$3.8 million) from Armstrong's successes in cycling's most gruelling and celebrated race between 1999 and 2005.

During that period, Tailwind Sports, the parent company of his US Postal Service team, took out a policy with sports insurance firm SCA Promotions, paying a premium to cover bonuses paid for his Tour victories.

SCA withheld a \$5 million bonus due after Armstrong's sixth Tour win in 2004 because of doping allegations in Europe. The rider took the Dallas, Texas, firm to court and was awarded the cash, plus \$2.5 million in legal fees and interest.

The firm's lawyer, Jeffrey Dorough, told AFP: "Mr Armstrong is no longer the official winner of any Tour de France races and as a result it is inappropriate and improper for him to retain any bonus payments made by SCA."

The Velonation cycling news website reported that SCA paid out a total of \$12 million in bonuses to Armstrong over the years. Dorough said he could only confirm the lower figure but added: "Any sum that was paid by SCA would be in play."

Elsewhere, Britain's Sunday Times newspaper has said it is considering legal action against Armstrong to recover money spent defending a defamation case over doping allegations, which was settled in 2004.

Armstrong, who reportedly has an estimated net worth of \$125 million, has already taken a financial hit, as high-profile sponsors including sportswear firm Nike have dropped him from marketing campaigns.

Business magazine Forbes said on its website on Monday that Armstrong could lose \$15 million a year in endorsements and speaking fees.

On the legal front, he could yet face court action for perjury after swearing under oath that he never doped. The maximum penalty is up to 30 years in prison and a fine of up to \$1.5 million.

Golf: Harrington grabs lead at PGA Grand Slam



Padraig Harrington of Ireland walks up the 16th hole

SOUTHAMPTON, Bermuda (AFP) - Ireland's Padraig Harrington fired a five-under par 66 on Tuesday to seize a two-stroke lead over Masters champion Bubba Watson after the opening round of the PGA Grand Slam of Golf.

The four-man, 36-hole showdown for a \$600,000 top prize at Bermuda's Port Royal Golf Course was designed to feature the year's four major champions.

But three-time major champion Harrington replaced British Open winner Ernie Els, the South African bowing out with a left ankle sprain, to become the only non-American in this year's field.

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy, the PGA Championship winner, withdrew to play a European Tour event in China, being replaced by defending event champion Keegan Bradley, the 2011 PGA Championship winner.

Simpson was third on 69 with Bradley fourth on 72 entering Wednesday's final round.

Harrington birdied the par-5 second but took a bogey at the par-3 third. Birdies at the sixth and par-3 seventh and another to begin the back nine put the Irishman in the lead.

Back-to-back birdies at 14 and 15 stretched Harrington's lead and he answered a bogey at the par-3 16th with a birdie at the par-5 17th.

Watson led early thanks to an eagle at the par-5 seventh but he made bogeys on three of the first

four holes on the back nine to stumble back to 68 at the finish.

Simpson kept pace with Watson before a bogey at 18 dropped him three adrift of Harrington while Bradley made bogey on two of the last three holes and never recovered from a double bogey at the fourth and bogeys at the fifth and sixth.



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NHL- Lockout

PITTSBURGH, The NHL had sent a memo to its general managers to give them a 48-hour window last week to talk to players who had questions about the owners' position. Commissioner Gary Bettman still believes, a full 82-game schedule can still be saved if the NHL and its players can get a deal done by Oct. 25. The NHL badly wants an 82-game season starting on November 2. The NHL said Tuesday that team officials may have temporary contact with players, although there are parameters regarding what can be discussed. But Players are standing firm mainly on the basis of wanting to be paid in full for their existing contracts, something that will only be possible with a 54 or 55 per cent share in the first year of any new contract. A full season means the Stanley Cup final finishes as late as June 30.

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Baseball: Rested Tigers face Giants in World Series showdown



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Seeking their first World Series crown in 28 years, the Detroit Tigers will count on formidable pitchers to cool off hot-hitting San Francisco when the championship showdown begins today.

Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final features a Giants' squad bidding for a second title in three seasons against a Tigers team longing to erase the memories of a 2006 World Series loss to St. Louis under similar circumstances.

The Tigers, who swept the New York Yankees to win the American League title, have a six-day layoff entering the World Series, just as they did six years ago when they came out flat and fell to the Cardinals in five games.

"We wanted to change what we did last time," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "Last time we just sat around for six days."

Detroit played intersquad games Sunday and Monday waiting for the Giants to take the National League title, San Francisco winning three games in a row when facing elimination to advance for the second playoff series in a row.

The Tigers have had time to rest their pitchers and or-

ganize them exactly how they want for the World Series while the Giants had not even pondered who to send to the mound until advancing less than 48 hours before game one.

The Giants ousted defending champion St. Louis by outscoring the Cardinals 20-1 over the last three games and that powerhouse batting lineup will face Tigers ace pitcher Justin Verlander in the World Series opener.

Detroit's starting pitchers have allowed only seven earned runs in 62 innings, a 1.02 earned-run average (ERA), in the playoffs.

Verlander is 3-0 with a 0.74 ERA, having struck out 25 batters while allowing only 10 hits and walking over 24 1/3 playoff innings.

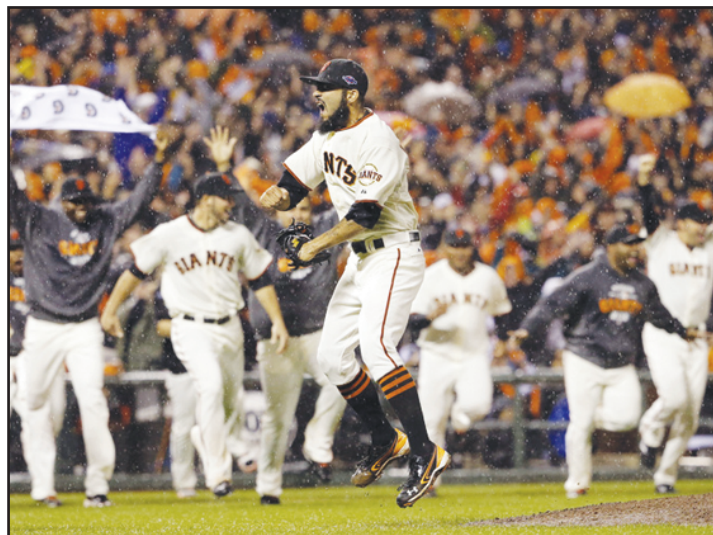
Rival hitters are only batting .122 against the 29-year-old right-hander, who led the major leagues in regular-season strikeouts and innings pitched.

Max Scherzer, Anibal Sanchez and Doug Fister joined Verlander to allow New York only two runs on 14 hits over 27 1/3 combined innings, a 0.66 ERA that was the second-lowest by a starting rotation in any major league playoff series.

Verlander, the American League Rookie of the Year six years ago and now the reigning American League Most Valuable Player, also started the 2006 World Series opener but surrendered seven runs on six hits in five innings in a loss to a team that, like this year's Giants, took seven games to reach the Series.

Leyland, who turns 68 in December, is managing on a one-year contract just as Tony La Russa did last year when he retired after guiding the Cardinals to the World Series crown.

At mid-season Leyland



faced firing rumors as the Tigers struggled to stay near the top of the AL Central di-

vision. Now he might guide the team to its first World Series crown since 1984.

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